

# Rocky Mountain Region

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### News Release

United States Department of Agriculture,  
Forest Service

### Rocky Mountain Region

#### Public Affairs Office

740 Simms Street  
Golden, CO 80401

**For Immediate Release: June 20, 2005**

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## Forest Service Modifies Requirements for Forage Products Use

**Golden, CO (June 20, 2005) - NEWS RELEASE**

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USDA FOREST SERVICE  
Rocky Mountain Region  
740 Simms Street Golden, CO 80401

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Starting today, visitors to national forests and national grasslands in the Rocky Mountain Region must comply with a new weed-free forage order. The order applies to everyone, but will be of special interest to those who use pack and saddle stock, such as horse owners, outfitters, ranchers with grazing permits, hunters, and contractors.

The new order covers all national forests and national grasslands in Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas. It requires that all hay, cubed hay, straw, mulch, and other products be certified as weed-free by a sanctioned certification program.

Forage products often contain seeds of non-native weeds that germinate on public lands and damage their health and beauty. Non-native weeds like leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, musk thistle, purple loosestrife, and others are alien to the United States and have no natural enemies to check their spread.

Departments of Agriculture in all five states have developed a certification process for forage products. Hay and grain fields are inspected to ensure that noxious weed seeds are absent. Once a field passes this inspection, bales and other products from the field are labeled as "certified weed-free."

The weed-free forage order is part of a noxious weed prevention program in the new Regional Invasive Species Management Strategy. The closure order and strategy and a list of weed-free hay suppliers are available at Forest Service offices throughout the regions, including the Regional Office at 740 Simms Street, Golden, CO, 80401, and also on the website [www.fs.fed.us/r2/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/), under "Highlights."

